



ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
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14 September 2015

The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH,  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Your Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, you are a true son of Antioch, raised by pious parents and formed early in the deep tradition of the Church of Antioch through early education at the St. John of Damascus and al-Assiyeh schools in Damascus, Syria.

Your introduction to monastic life began early, at Our Lady of Balamand Monastery in Koura, Lebanon. Special studies in music and languages were at the heart of your Master of Theology degree studies at Aristotle University in Greece.

Ordained a priest in 1980, and consecrated Bishop of Katana, Syria, in 1991, you have brought to America a zeal for apostolic mission, expanding across the vast American West and reaching to the far North in Alaska. Your personal spiritual grounding has been woven into a leadership style that is effective and evangelical in zeal and fervor.

A true pastor of pastors, you are regarded by your people as a teacher, constantly finding "teaching moments" that create a climate of thirst for the truth of the Gospel.

A model of Orthodox unity on the West Coast of America, you are now, as Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America, a leading voice among the hierarchs, making Orthodoxy a unified voice and visible presence in this culture.

Now, Therefore,

By virtue of the power vested in the Board of Trustees and the Faculty of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa is bestowed upon His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph.